

Observation of the Sabbath.

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Acts and Laws,

MADE and PASSED by the GENERAL COURT OF ASSEMBLY of His Majesty's English Colony of Connecticut, in New-England, in AMERICA: Holden at New-Haven, in said Colony, on the Second Thursday of October, in the Tenth Year of the Reign of Our Sovereign Lord GEORGE the Third, King of GREAT-BRITAIN, &c. Annoque Domini, 1770.

An Act in addition to a Law of this Colony, entitled,  
 "An Act for the due Observation and keeping the  
 "Sabbath or Lord's Day, and for preventing and  
 "punishing Disorders and Propbaneness on the same."

**B**E it enacted by the Governor, Council, and Representatives, in General Court assembled, and by the Authority of the same, That no Persons in this Colony professing the Christian, Protestant Religion, who soberly and conscientiously dissent from the Worship and Ministry established or approved by the Laws of this Colony, and attend public Worship by themselves, shall incur any of the Penalties in said Act mentioned, for not attending the Worship and Ministry so established on the Lord's-Day, or on Account of their Meeting together by themselves on said Day, for the public Worship of God, in a Way agreeable to their Consciences; any Thing in said Act to the contrary notwithstanding.

Sober Persons, who dissent from the established Worship, exempted from Penalty.



Lifers directed in their Office. Petitions, Memorials, &c.

An Act in addition to a Law of this Colony, entitled,  
*"An Act for the Direction of Lifers in their Office  
 and Duty."*

Estates of  
 Ministers, ly-  
 ing in the  
 Society and  
 Town in  
 which they  
 dwell, ex-  
 empted from  
 Taxes.

**B**E it enacted by the Governor, Council, and Representatives,  
 in General Court assembled, and by the Authority of the  
 same, That all the Ministers of the Gospel, that now are, or  
 hereafter shall be Settled in this Colony, during their con-  
 tinuance in the Ministry, shall have all their Estates lying in  
 the same Society, as well as in the same Town wherein they  
 dwell, exempted out of the List of Polls and rateable Estates.

An Act in addition to, and alteration of an Act made  
 in May last, entitled, *"An Act in addition to an  
 Act, entitled, an Act concerning Petitions and  
 Prayers or Memorials to the General Assembly."*

Preamble.

**W**H E R E A S in said Act it is Enacted, *"That the As-  
 sembly at Discretion, may refer any such Petitions to be  
 heard by a Committee for that Purpose appointed, who  
 shall make their Report to the Assembly in Writing, with the  
 Exhibits produced, and their Opinion thereon."* And whereas  
 in many Cases it may not be expedient for such Committees to report  
 the exhibits, but only the Facts appearing from the Whole of the  
 Evidence laid before them:

Committees  
 to make Re-  
 port to the  
 General As-  
 sembly.

**B**E it enacted by the Governor, Council, and Representatives,  
 in General Court assembled, and by the Authority of the same,  
 That every Committee to whom the hearing of any Petition  
 or Memorial shall be referred by the Assembly, shall make  
 Report in Writing of the Facts that they shall find in the  
 Case, with their Opinion thereon, or otherwise as they may  
 be specially directed by the Assembly.

In what  
 Manner Me-  
 morials shall  
 be conduct-  
 ed.

*And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That all  
 Memorials brought to the Assembly shall be conducted agreeable  
 to the Direction of this, and the aforesaid Act, relative to Peti-  
 tions; and when any Matter of Law or Principle of Equity,  
 arising upon the Facts stated by the Report of a Committee,  
 shall be in Question between the Parties, and by them, or either  
 of them particularly pointed out in Writing, they or their Coun-  
 cil may be heard thereon, Viva Voce, before the Assembly;  
 and that the Secretary's Fees only shall be taken, where the  
 Assembly are no otherways hindered than by appointing a Com-  
 mittee as aforesaid; any Law, Usage, or Custom to the contrary  
 notwithstanding.*



Attachments and Executions.

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An Act concerning Attachments, and levying Executions.

*BE it enacted by the Governor, Council, and Representatives, in General Court assembled, and by the Authority of the same,* That for the future, when any Estate, Real or Personal is Attached by Virtue of a Writ of Attachment in any Civil Action, the Officer who Serves the same shall leave with the Person whose Estate is so Attached, or at the Place of his usual Abode, (if within this Colony), a true and attested Copy of the Writ, and of his Return, describing the Estate, by him Attached thereon: And when any Real Estate is taken, the Officer serving the same shall leave a true and attested Copy of the Writ, and the Estate taken, at the Town-Clerk's Office, in such Town where the Estate lies: And until the Service is so completed, the Estate Attached shall not be held by such Attachment, against any other Creditor or Bonafide Purchaser, unless such Copy is left in Service, within Seven Days next after attaching the Estate, and before the Time limited by Law for the Service of such Writ is expired.

Any Estate being attached, the Officer to leave a Copy of the Writ.

Real Estate being attached, a Copy of the Writ to be left at the Town-Clerk's Office.

*And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid,* That no Estate attached as aforesaid, shall be held to respond the Judgment obtained by the Plaintiff at whose Suit the same is Attached, either against the Debtor or any other Creditor, unless such Judgment Creditor take out Execution on such Judgment, and have the same Levied on the Goods or personal Estate, within Sixty Days after final Judgment, or on the real Estate, and the same have Apprized and Recorded within Four Months after such Judgment obtained; or if such Goods or Estate are incumbered by any prior Attachment, the Execution be Levied as aforesaid, within the respective Times aforesaid, after such Incumbrance is removed.

Execution to be levied in Sixty Days after final Judgment.

*And that when the Body of any Person is Attached, and for want of Bail committed to Prison, the Person so committed shall not be holden in Prison by Virtue of such Attachment, for a longer Time than Five Days after the rising of the Court in which final Judgment in such Case shall be rendered: And in Case no Execution shall be taken out upon such Judgment, and Levied upon the Person of such imprisoned Debtor within Five Days as aforesaid, the Goal-keeper, upon his Fees being paid, may not hold such Prisoner any longer by Virtue of said Commitment; any Law, Usage, or Custom to the contrary notwithstanding.*

Any Person attached not to be holden in Goal longer than five Days after rising of Court, unless Execution is levied.



An Act in addition to, and alteration of a Law of this Colony, entitled, "*An Act for the admission of Inhabitants in Towns, and for the preventing of Charge on Account of such as are not admitted therein.*"

That no transient Person, &c. to gain legal Settlement, unless admitted by Vote of Town, or consent of the civil Authority.

**B**E it enacted by the Governor, Council, and Representatives, in General Court assembled, and by the Authority of the same, That no transient Person or Inhabitant of any other Colony, who may come to reside or dwell in any Town in this Colony, shall gain a legal Settlement in such Town by dwelling there, unless admitted by a major Vote of the Inhabitants of such Town, or by the Consent of the Civil Authority in, and Select-men of said Town, or unless such Person shall be appointed to, and execute some public Office, or have been possessed in his own Right in Fee of a real Estate of the Value of One Hundred Pounds, in such Town, during his continuance there; but such Persons, not having gained a Settlement as aforesaid, if the Select-men of such Town judge they are likely to become Chargeable to said Town, may be removed to the Place of their last legal Settlement, although they may have been suffered to continue in said Town more than Twelve Months without being warned to depart; any Thing in said Act to the contrary notwithstanding.

Liberty for Persons to remove from one Town to another.

And it is further enacted, That any Inhabitant of any Town within this Colony, may, for the better Support of himself or Family, have Liberty to remove with his Family into any other Town in the Colony, and continue there without being liable to be removed, provided such Person procure a Certificate in Writing, under the Hands of the Civil Authority in, and Select-men of the Town from whence he removes, that he is a legal Inhabitant in that Town, and lodge the same with the Clerk of the Town to which he removes. And in Case such Person, or any of his Family stand in need of Relief from said Town, he or they shall be Supported at the Cost of the Town where such Person was Settled and obtained a Certificate as aforesaid; and may be returned back to such Town, provided such Person hath not been admitted an Inhabitant, or gained a Settlement as before in this Act is provided, in any other Town, after such Certificate was given.

Provided nevertheless, That Persons coming to reside in any Town as aforesaid, and their Estates, shall be as liable to be taken under the Care of the Select-men of the Town where they dwell, for Mismanagement, Idleness, or bad Husbandry, agreeable to the Law in that Case provided, as if they had a legal Settlement in such Town; and that nothing in this Act shall be construed to hinder such Towns from ridding themselves of any

A Proviso.

any



Counterfeiting Coins. Punishment of Theft.

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any Vagrant, or Persons whom such Town, or the Authority therein, or Select-men thereof shall judge to be of disorderly, ungoverned, or vicious Conversation, in the same Manner as they might have done before the passing of this Act.

An Act against counterfeiting Coins.

**BE** it enacted by the Governor, Council, and Representatives, in General Court assembled, and by the Authority of the same, That whosoever hereafter, shall Counterfeit, or make any Instrument or Instruments for the counterfeiting any of the Coins mentioned in the Proclamation, of her late Majesty Queen ANNE, for ascertaining the Rates of Foreign Coins in Her Majesty's Plantations in America, or any other Gold or Silver Coins, currently passing in this Colony, or shall be aiding or assisting therein, or shall pass, utter, or put off any base, false, or counterfeit Coin within this Colony, knowing the same to be base, false, or counterfeit, as aforesaid, and be thereof convicted, before the Superiour Court, shall have his right Ear cut off, be branded in the Forehead with the Letter C, on a hot Iron, be whipped on the naked Body Twenty Stripes, be imprisoned Six Months in the common Goal in the County where such Person shall be convicted, without Bail or Mainprize; and there kept to hard Labour, according to the direction of the Law concerning Work-Houses, and be fined at the discretion of the Court, and pay Costs of Prosecution. And if such Offender or Offenders shall not be able to pay such Fine and Costs of Prosecution, said Superiour Court is hereby authorized and fully impowered to assign such Person or Persons in Service, for satisfying the same, after the Expiration of said Six Months Imprisonment.

The Punishment for counterfeiting Gold or Silver Coins.

An Act in addition to the Law of this Colony, intituled, "An Act for the Punishment of Theft."

**BE** it enacted by the Governor, Council, and Representatives, in General Court assembled, and by the Authority of the same, That whoever for the Future, shall steal or purloin any Money, Goods, or Chattels, of the Value of Five Shillings, or of any greater Value under the Sum of Twenty Shillings, and be thereof convicted, by Confession or other sufficient Evidence, and shall refuse, or not be able to pay the Fine imposed, shall be punished by whipping on the naked Body, at the Discretion of the Court,

A Punishment for Theft.



Court, Assistant, or Justice of the Peace that shall try the same, not exceeding Ten Stripes; any Law, Usage, or Custom to the contrary in any wise notwithstanding.

An Act to suppress Hawkers, Pedlars, and Petty-Chapmen, and to repeal an Act, entitled, "*An Act for regulating and licencing Pedlars, Hawkers, and Petty-Chapmen*;" and also one other Act made in alteration thereof.

**B**E it enacted by the Governor, Council, and Representatives, in General Court assembled, and by the Authority of the same, That for the future no Person shall trade, deal, and traffick in this Colony, as a Pedlar, Hawker, and Petty-Chapman. And that if any Person shall presume to traffick, deal, and trade in Manner aforesaid, such Person shall forfeit all Goods, Wares, and Merchandize so by him carried about and offered to Sale, the one Half to him or them who shall inform, and prosecute such Information to Effect, the other Half to the Colony Treasury, for the Use of the Government.

No Person to trade as a Pedlar, &c. on Forfeiture of his Goods.

**B**E it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That all such Goods or Merchandize offered to Sale as aforesaid, may and shall be seized by any Person to whom such Goods or Merchandize are so offered to Sale, or by any other Person or Persons in this Colony. And such Goods and Merchandize so seized shall forthwith be delivered to the next Assistant or Justice of the Peace, and an Inventory thereof shall be taken by such Assistant or Justice; and the same he shall cause to be apprized by Two indifferent judicious Freeholders by him appointed, who shall be Sworn faithfully to apprise said Goods and Merchandize according to their true and just Value in Money: And such Goods so apprized shall remain in the Hands of said Assistant or Justice of the Peace until final Judgment be had on said Information. And the Person or Persons seizing such Goods and Merchandize, shall make Information against said Goods seized as aforesaid, to an Assistant or Justice of the Peace, in the Town where such Goods are seized, if the Value of such Goods apprizied as aforesaid do not exceed the Sum of *Forty Shillings*; and if the Value of such Goods exceed the Sum of *Forty Shillings*, to the next County Court in that County where such Goods are seized: And said Assistant or Justice of the Peace, or County Court where such Information is filed, shall proceed to hear and try said Cause, and are hereby empowered to decree said Goods forfeit as aforesaid, and order the same to be Sold at public Vendue,

In what Manner such Goods shall be seized.



Whale and Cod Fisheries.

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Vendue, and the avails thereof paid in Manner aforesaid. And the King's Attornies in the several Counties, and all other informing Officers are hereby directed to make Prosecution of this Act.

*Always provided, That nothing in this Act shall be construed to hinder any Persons carrying about and selling Deer's Skins, Beaver, Furrs, and all other the Produce and Manufactures of this and the neighbouring Colonies.*

A proviso.

*Be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That an Act of this Colony, intituled, "An Act for regulating and licencing Pedlars, Hawkers, and Petty-Chapmen," and one other Act in alteration thereof, be, and the same are hereby repealed and made null and void.*

An Act repealed.

*Provided nevertheless, That no Person or Persons who are by said Act already licenced for the Purpose aforesaid, shall be restrained by Virtue of this Act from dealing as aforesaid, during the Term of, and until the Expiration of their respective Licences.*

A proviso.

An Act for the Encouragement of the Whale and Cod Fisheries.

**WHEREAS** the Whale and Cod Fisheries, are of great Importance, and if duly encouraged may prove a Source of Wealth, and real Advantage to this Colony, by extending the Trade and Navigation thereof, and increasing Seamen.

Preamble.

**BE** it therefore enacted by the Governor, Council, and Representatives, in General Court assembled, and by the Authority of the same, That all Vessels owned in this Colony, and employed, in either the Whale or Cod Fisheries, for the Term of Four Months in a Year, shall be exempted from being set in the public List, and freed from Taxes in each Year wherein they shall be so employed in either of said Fisheries.

Vessels employed in the Whale and Cod Fisheries exempted from Taxes.

*And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That all Inhabitants of this Colony, who shall be employed Four Months in a Year on board Vessels in said Fisheries, and owned in this Colony as aforesaid, be exempted from having their Heads set in the List in each Year wherein they shall be so employed in said Business.*

Inhabitants so employed also exempt.

And



And also that every such Inhabitant employed as aforesaid, shall be exempted from working at Highways, during each Year they are so employed.

An Act in addition to, and alteration of one certain Law of this Colony, entitled, "*An Act for regulating the Assize of Bricks.*"

Preamble.

**WHEREAS** it is found by Experience, that the Size or Dimensions of Bricks as now required by Law, is very inconvenient, for that the contexture of the Clay in many Towns in this Colony is such, that it is impracticable to make Bricks of so large a Size with Advantage.

The Assize of Bricks.

For the remedy whereof:  
**BE** it enacted by the Governor, Council, and Representatives, in General Court assembled, and by the Authority of the same, That for the future, all Bricks made within this Colony for Sale, shall be full Eight Inches in length, Four Inches in breadth, and Two Inches thick; any Law, or Custom to the contrary notwithstanding.

Preamble.

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**NEW - L O N D O N :**

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Vessels employed in the Fishery and God Fisheries exempted from Taxes.

Inhabitants employed in the Fishery also exempted.

And that all Inhabitants of this Colony, who shall be employed Four Months in any one year on board Vessels in said Fisheries, and owned in this Colony as aforesaid, be exempted from having their Heads set in the List in each Year wherein they shall be so employed in said Fisheries.

And



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